

## STUART GRANT CONSENT LETTER

Dear Parent or Guardian:

### **Purpose of the study**

This study is being conducted by the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority in order to better understand the attitude of middle school students toward science. The research will help classroom teachers understand how students react to non-traditional instruction by using an innovative teaching method. The study will provide information on how to make science interesting and fun to middle school students for the present and in the future.

### **Description of the study procedures and approximate duration of the study**

The Arkansas Science & Technology Authority has made an award to your child's teacher who will use a classroom participation system (CPS) in teaching middle school science. The award provides funds for the teacher to purchase the CPS equipment that will be used for student experiences of science principles.

CPS uses an infrared remote control (similar in scope to a television remote control) that is used by students to answer true-false or multiple choice questions asked by the teacher during a science session. Individual student responses are relayed to the teacher's computer. This teaching procedure reduces student classroom stress by eliminating individual responses and makes learning fun. The teacher can immediately determine by their computer whether or not the class is understanding the information. Individual answers to questions are recorded which allows the teacher to identify individuals who need extra help.

### **Description of how confidentiality will be assured and the limits to these assurances, if any**

Parents or guardians who return a signed consent form have indicated their consent for the child to participate in this study. Please be assured that student responses will be held in the strictest confidence, and note that there is no name or other identifiable personal data on the pre-and post-tests. Your child or ward will be given a short, ten-minute exam concerning their attitude towards science. The test will be coded by the classroom teacher who will be the only individual who will know your child's grade. At no time will the student's name be known by the researchers. Neither your child's school nor his/her name will be identified in any publication from the study. All response data will be secured in the office of the Authority's Vice President Research. After one year the test materials will be shredded and removed from the Authority. If the results of the study were to be written for publication, no identifying information would be used.

### **Anticipated benefits resulting from this study**

The potential benefits to your child from participating in the study are to make learning fun, enjoyable and create a lifelong interest in understanding science. The study may be helpful in increasing student understanding of different principles. There are no known potential risks for participation in this study.

The potential benefits to education that may result from this study are to assist middle school teachers to help students maintain their interest in science. It is hoped that middle school curiosity about science will be carried over to high school. This study will provide attitude information to teachers and provide an innovative method of teaching science to middle school students.

The results will be made available electronically to middle schools teachers who teach science in Arkansas so that they can benefit from this educational study.

**Contact information**

If you have any questions about this study, you can contact the person below:

Ms. Cathy Ma, Research Program Manager  
Arkansas Science & Technology Authority  
423 Main Street, Suite 200  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
Tel. No.: (501) 683-4400  
Email address: [cathy.ma@mail.state.ar.us](mailto:cathy.ma@mail.state.ar.us)

I hope that your child will be able to participate in this study. Thank you for your cooperation!

Sincerely,

Cathy Ma  
Research Program Manager

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_